

# Ellis Island Oral Interview

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Education Department  
Ellis Island Immigration Museum  
Statue of Liberty National Monument



**Interviewee: Elda Del Bino Willitts**

Date of Birth: April 28, 1911

Date of Interview: November 9, 1990

Interviewer: Paul E. Sigrist, Jr.

Immigrated from Lucca, Italy at Age 5 in 1916

Ellis Island Collection: EI-8

## **Willitts (Anticipating the Eye Exam):**

When I got on the boat, I was only five and this little, this gentleman who had been back and forth several times, and well my mother took a liking to him because he was so knowledgeable about it. He spoke Italian. And so he took me on a walk one day and he said, "You know what? When you get over to Ellis Island they're going to be examining your eyes with a hook," and he says, "Don't let them do it because you know what? They did it to me- one eye fell in my pocket. (Paul laughs) So you can imagine how I entered this...So we get over there and everybody has to pass and I'm on the floor screaming. I passed without a physical. I passed the eye test because the other seven passed.